

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of preparing [[a]] vanillin material which comprises:

(i) a step of carrying out a biotransformation process to generate a biotransformation medium which contains vanillin produced by said biotransformation process and substantially free from odoriferous by-products and substantially free from odoriferous by-products;

(ii) a step of precipitating a crude ~~first solid vanillin containing solid material~~ vanillin product from a solution which is or is derived from said biotransformation medium; and

(iii) purifying said ~~first material~~ vanillin product by a process comprising contacting [[it]] the vanillin product with a purification fluid selected from (a) a liquefied gas whose pressure exceeds its critical pressure and whose temperature is below its critical temperature; (b) a supercritical fluid; (c) a gas; to provide [[a]] solid vanillin-containing second material which ~~is purer has higher purity~~ than said ~~first material~~ in terms of its vanillin content vanillin product of step (ii).

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said purification fluid is a liquefied gas.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said purification fluid is at a temperature below 25°.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said purification fluid is (a) a liquefied gas or (b) a supercritical fluid.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said fluid is carbon dioxide.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 including a further step (iv) of treating said ~~second material vanillin of step (iii)~~ with a gas in a fluidised bed.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1 in which the supercritical fluid and/or the gas is carbon dioxide.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which said biotransformation process comprises the biotransformation of ferulic acid into vanillin.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8 in which the ferulic acid is derived from a natural plant source.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the biotransformation medium is a culture medium.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10 in which the culture medium is a medium containing the biotransformation is carried out by *Actinomycetales* microorganisms which have generated vanillin therein.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said microorganisms are *Streptomyces* species.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said species is *S. setonii*.

14. (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said microorganisms are *Amycolatopsis* species.

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein said microorganisms are organisms of the strain deposited under consist in *Amycolatopsis* sp. deposited with the Culture Collection CABI under an accession number IMI390106 or mutants

thereof which are (a) resistant to spectinomycin and (b) capable of producing vanillin substantially free from guaiacol.

16. (original) A method according to claim 15 ~~which employs a mutant such that the crude solid vanillin containing material contains wherein said microorganisms or mutants thereof are capable of producing a vanillin material containing~~ not more than 100ppm of guaiacol.

17-21. (canceled)